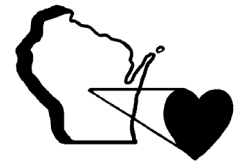


WOOD COUNTY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|------|
| <i>Outgoing Chairman</i> | 1169 |
| <i>Incoming Chairman</i> | 1169 |
| <i>New Officers</i> | 1170 |
| <i>A Heart Welcome</i> | 1170 |
| <i>Cemetery Indexing Project Report</i> | 1170 |
| <i>CD Library</i> | 1171 |
| <i>Book Purchases</i> | 1171 |
| <i>Annual Reports</i> | 1172 |
| <i>Brick Wall—Frank LaVigne</i> | 1172 |
| <i>In Memoriam—Neoma Maleski</i> | 1173 |
| <i>Annual Reports, cont'd.</i> | 1173 |
| <i>Book Purchases, cont'd.</i> | 1173 |
| <i>Calendar of Events</i> | 1174 |
| <i>n Memoriam—Jean Fritz</i> | 1175 |
| <i>Editor's Apology</i> | 1175 |
| <i>Membership Form</i> | 1175 |
| <i>Society Information</i> | 1176 |

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

This is going to be my final Chairman's Corner for the time being. I have decided to take a break for a while, as I have too many irons in the fire right now. I have enjoyed being the Chairman for these past 4 years, leading the organization through many projects. I am especially proud that I was able to participate in our 40th Anniversary celebration this past April (and hope to be around for our 50th in 2024).

I will be getting out more this year around the state, finding information in archives, cemeteries, and County record vaults, on my various family lines. I may even track down some of my out-of-state relation.

All of you fellow genealogists out there are trying to fill in your gaps. I have heard from a member that she has found a firmer connection to the DAR through another branch of her family, not the main branch she was primarily researching before. Good work, and I hope we all can have good luck in breaking some of those walls we have.

In closing, I wish Diantha good luck as the new Chairman for the upcoming year. Also, don't count me totally out, I may be back in the center chair again in the future.

Eugene Meier

INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Procrastination: The dictionary gives the definition as: "To put off, defer, or postpone to a later time." All of us at one time or another have put off till a later date: the interviewing of an elder in the family, calling someone who has been sick or grieving; or writing a letter to a library or archives for a specific piece of information. Sometimes it turns out to be too late by the time we get to it.

Lately I took stock of the different items on my to-do list. One of them was to follow up on some information from Erie County, PA. Earlier I had learned that my GGgrandfather had returned to Erie County and had died there. I always meant to write the cemetery for more information on the family. Finally I sat down and wrote the letter. I was surprised when

I received the reply. It seems that a neighbor to the caretaker of the cemetery was a distant relative to my family. A son of my GG was married to her relative and she had more information on them. I had lost this branch of the family after the 1895 Wisconsin State Census in Adams County. Now, with the information she shared, I found him in Hubbard, MN, where he died in 1910.

Just a reminder to finish that project that was put aside when the kids came home to visit—make that phone call and write that letter. You will never know just what you can accomplish if you don't try.

Diantha Neinfeldt

NEW OFFICERS

New officers, as follows, were elected at the May meeting:

- Chairman
Diantha Neinfeldt
- Vice Chairman
Tina Krummel
- Secretary
Doreen Dimick
- Treasurer
Bev Polansky
- Trustee
Eugene Meier

Please give these people your full support as they begin their new duties.

A HEART WELCOME!

We welcomed a new member into our Society at the March meeting. His name is Thomas Mann. His address is 5631 Boulder Circle in Wisconsin Rapids. He can be reached by phone at 715-421-5688. Tom has lots of projects on his plate—he is currently working on family histories of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sigel. He tells me he has over 13,000 on that list. He is also working on Mann and Higgins surnames. Be sure to greet Tom when you see him at a meeting!

CEMETERY INDEXING PROJECT REPORT

I want to thank all those who either entered names into a spreadsheet, proofed those names back to the original stone readings, or helped in some way with updating of these records:

Fred Murray (member) who shared his cemetery of Greenhill; Denis Kester (member) who sent his cemetery records of Faith Reform; Ken Wood (Marshfield) who had done several small cemeteries around Marshfield and shared with us; Jack Lukes (member) who entered and proofed; Mary Peters (member) who did her cemeteries in the Town of Seneca; Emil Krause (member) who shared his records of Holy Rosary and the Wood County Poor Farm; Jan Castell who helped with the Pittsville cemeteries; Charlene Robinson (non-member), Myra Sweet (member), Marlene Fulton (non-member), Dorothy Raasch (non-member) and many others who helped gather records and proofed; and last of all, Annie Greeno, who stepped in and helped with many of the outlying cemeteries, getting church records and making many trips to the courthouse to verify. Without her help the past few years, we still wouldn’t be done. Annie and I have put in many hours, miles, and time putting these indexes together.

We now have a total of 18,180 burial records on our web site and 20,207 records for the three large Wisconsin Rapids cemeteries. We have yet to finish the three Native American cemeteries and Riverside of Nekoosa.

Mike Baltus of Marshfield has all three of the city cemeteries on their web site, easily searchable by name. These three cemeteries are all on St. Joseph Ave—Hillside Municipal, Gate of Heaven, and Immanuel Lutheran.

Thanks go out to the secretaries of the churches that Annie and I visited. Most were very helpful and went out of their way to make room for us to work and find old records for us. The same is true of local town clerks and cemetery sextons of the many townships we visited. Some had good records, and many had nothing and were very glad to receive a copy when we left.

This has been a long haul for seven years, but now we can see the light (small lantern) at the end of the very long tunnel.

Submitted by:
Diantha Neinfeldt &
Annie Greeno
11 Mar 2014

**REMINDER--
Please pay your dues for the upcoming year!**

CD LIBRARY

Following is a list of CDs that Society members Pat Andrae and Pat Berklund have donated. These CDs can be checked out for you to use on your home computer. Contact Norma Reber as to which ones you'd like to borrow. You can then have her bring them to the next meeting or make some other arrangements to get them.

Please note that some of these are older CDs and may require the CD called "Family Archive Viewer." Even with that CD, there is always the possibility that these may not run on your computer.

- ◆ Ancestry Reference Library
- ◆ Bible Records—NEHGS
- ◆ Birth Records: US/Europe 900-1800
- ◆ Connecticut Family Histories, 1600-1800
- ◆ Early New England Settlers, 1600-1800
- ◆ Family Archive Viewer
- ◆ Mid-Atlantic Genealogies, 1340-1940
- ◆ FTM Family Finder Index, Vol. 1: A-E
- ◆ FTM Family Finder Index, Vol. 2: F-M
- ◆ FTM Family Finder Index, Vol. 3: N-Z
- ◆ World Family Tree, V1, pre-1600-Present
- ◆ World Family Tree, V2, pre-1600-Present
- ◆ World Family Tree, V3, pre-1600-Present
- ◆ World Family Tree, V4, pre-1600-Present
- ◆ World Family Tree, V5, pre-1600-Present
- ◆ World Family Tree, Vol. 15
- ◆ World Family Tree, Vol. 26
- ◆ Genealogical Records, New York, 1675-1920
- ◆ Heritage Books Archives—Wisconsin
- ◆ Huguenot Settlers
- ◆ Illinois Marriages, 1791-1900
- ◆ Family Histories: New England, 1600s-1900s
- ◆ Marriage Index, Connecticut, 1635-1860
- ◆ Marriage Index, New York, 1740-1880
- ◆ Massachusetts Vital Records, 1600-1800
- ◆ Military Records: US Soldiers, 1784-1811
- ◆ Nat'l Genealogical Soc. Quarterly, Vols. 1-85
- ◆ New England Families #2
- ◆ New England Families, 1600-1800
- ◆ New England Family Histories, 1600-1900
- ◆ New England Marriages Prior to 1700
- ◆ The New England Register Index
- ◆ PAF Version 4.0 (Not supported anymore)
- ◆ Passenger & Immigration Lists Index
- ◆ Selected US/Int'l Marriage Records, 1340-1980
- ◆ Vital Records Index—Births
- ◆ Vital Records, Rhode Island, 1500-1900
- ◆ Vital Records, British Isles

BOOK PURCHASES 2013-2014

Books purchased for placement at McMillan Memorial Library include:

- Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques by George C. Morgan, 2013. Placed in memory of Elizabeth "Beth" Klumb. This book shows you step by step how to uncover elusive details by taking advantage of specialized tools and software programs and using proven best practices for breaking through the brick walls that have hindered your progress.
- The Family Tree Guidebook to Europe: Your Essential Guide to Trace Your Genealogy in Europe by Allison Dolan, 2013. Placed in memory of Alfred Salzman. Each of the 14 chapters in this book is devoted to a specific country or region of Europe and includes all the essential records and resources for filling in your tree.
- Finding Your Roots: Easy-To-Do Genealogy and Family History by Janice Schultz, 2013. A librarian and authority on genealogical research offers tips on getting started, library research, research techniques, interviewing technique, etc., to help find your family history.
- The Genealogist's Internet: The Essential Guide to Researching Your Family History Online by Peter Christian, 2012. This guide identifies the major web sites and online sources and helps you navigate through them to garner all the information.
- Oral History for the Family Historian: A Basic Guide by Linda Barnickel, 2010. This book offers practical guidance on how to conduct a family oral history interview and avoid common mistakes. (Cont'd. on Page 1173)

(Cont'd from Page 1171)

- Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from

ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports are in and summarized below.

- ◆ **Book Purchases**—Nine books were purchased and/or donated this year. A list and brief summary of these books are on Page 1171 of this newsletter.
- ◆ **Indexing**—Much remains the same as last year's report. They do report they are looking for someone to index the current newspapers. If you can help, please volunteer.
- ◆ **Programs**—This report is a listing of programs held the previous year. This report will help the Program Committee review topics already covered in order to find some new topics. If you have an idea for a program, please contact the Program Committee Chair Tina Krummel.
- ◆ **Research**—The Research Committee reports that the majority of inquiries comes through the web site or by direct e-mail. The committee keeps a list of who submitted the inquiry and on what surnames.
- ◆ **Trustees**—The contents of the three cabinets at McMillan library were inventoried and organized. It was decided by the Society that copies of this inventory will be kept by the trustees, by the secretary, and in the cabinets themselves. The naturalization papers indexing cards are now stored in Cabinet I. The South Wood County newspapers *(Cont'd on Page 1173)*

(Cont'd from Page 1172)

FRANK LAVIGNE— MEMBER ANN NELSON'S BRICK WALL

I am looking for documentation of Frank LaVigne's place of birth in Canada, his parents' names, and possible confirmation that he was a brother to Eusebe LaVigne, who was an early settler in Wood County, originally from Gentilly, Canada.

Frank LaVigne was born in 1831/1832 in Canada. He moved to the United States in 1848; by 1861 he was living in Wood County, Wisconsin.

In May 1861 he and Adolph LaVigne (born August 1, 1830) volunteered to serve in the Civil War. Both he and Adolph were injured and discharged in 1862. Adolph died December 11 of that year and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery. His headstone may indicate that he was born in Gentilly, Canada.

In 1870 Frank married Alphonsine Parthenais Protteau (born July 4, 1843, in Joliette, Quebec). They lived in Centralia and had two children who survived to adulthood—Lillian (my grandmother) and Marie-Louise.

Alphonsine LaVigne died on April 14, 1902, and is buried in Calvary Cemetery. After her death, Frank lived with his daughter, Mary-Louise Boehm, in Wausau and also with his daughter, Lillian Nelson, in Rock Township, North Dakota. He died in 1917 but I have no family record of where he died.

From the 1860 census, Adolph LaVigne was living in the Eusebe LaVigne household. Because of that connection and his possible birth in Gentilly, I am assuming they were brothers, but I can find no confirmation of that in the Canadian records. Because Adolph and Frank enlisted on the same day in 1861, it is possible they were brothers but again I cannot confirm this either.

I would appreciate any help on this. Please contact me, Ann Nelson, at fullcirclefarm360@runbox.com. Thanks!

IN MEMORIAM—NEOMA

Our Society lost another one of its charter members—Neoma (Coon) Maleski. She passed away on August 28. Neoma was born on June 18, 1930, in Arkdale, WI. She worked as an operator at Wood County Telephone company. Later she provided daycare services for Safe-Way bus drivers before becoming a school bus aide for handicapped children.

Along with her sister, Delores Holberg, Neoma attended the very first meeting of what later became the Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society. They remained faithful, hard-working members of the Society.

Neoma volunteered to be on the very first newsletter committee and the first newspaper indexing project. She served as Secretary of the Society for five years and as Vice Chairman for two years.

Her ready smile was always there to greet newcomers to the meetings. She helped countless "newbies" get started on their family history journey, including yours truly.

Neoma joined the Writer's Group started by another member, Jean Fritz, at the Lowell Center in order to write down her many family stories so they would not be lost to future generations.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Chester, and two daughters and their spouses: Carolyn & Jim Saylor and Theresa & Tom Pataky.

She will be missed by her family and her many genealogy friends.



R.I.P.

In addition to the two members eulogized in this newsletter, we also lost two former members this year.

Maxwell Kniess, Jr., died on May 30. He joined the Society in 1995 and was a member until 2005.

Maxwell Andrae died on June 13. He and his wife Pat joined the Society in June of 1991. Max shared his knowledge of computers and the internet with us in various programs.

ANNUAL REPORTS, CONT'D.

index cards have been withdrawn by the library. This information is on microfilm in the Local History Corner (LHC). The original cemetery books have been put in storage. This info is on the library's website and on microfilm in the LHC. The library has a link to our website on theirs. The original cemetery index cards are still on file in the LHC.

- ◆ **Website**—We will update the wording on some of the pages and fix links where necessary. PayPal is available on the site for easy renewals and donations. We receive many e-mails thanking us for the information available on the website.

The Editor

BOOK PURCHASES, CONT'D.

Fiction in Family Legends by Richard Hite, 2013. Placed in memory of Jean Fritz. There are so many books that describe how to find your ancestors; this one clarifies how not to! He explains how to avoid the traps that many genealogists fall into—whether it's a family tradition, a venerable publication, or an internet family tree.

- Writing Local History Today: A Guide to Researching, Publishing, and Marketing Your Book by Thomas Mason, 2013. This book guides local historians to a successful publication, focusing on how to write well plus how to market and sell their work.
- 125 Years Serving God and Community 1887-2012, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Seneca Corners, Wisconsin. Donated by Mary Peters. Details the history of a local church.
- Lands of the German Empire and Before by Wendy K. Uncapher, 2004. Donated by Myra Sweet. Placed in memory of David Billmeyer.

Be sure to visit McMillan Memorial Library to check out these informative books.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

09 Sep 2014 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** "What Did You Do Last Summer?" Program at 6:30 p.m. followed by our meeting. Just like children returning to school, we all like to share what we accomplished or didn't accomplish over the summer. The September meeting is our chance to do this. Come join us!

20 Sep 2014 **Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Chapter Leaders' Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Marshfield Clinic, 1000 North Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI.** This has always been a popular meeting for leaders of societies. It gives us a chance to share our knowledge and to gain new insights. Some of the topics are Blogging, Facebook, Workshop or New Members, By-Laws, Newsletters, and Society Issues.

14 Oct 2014 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** Program to be announced.

17-18 Oct 2014 **WSGS Fall Seminar, Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** **Our Society will be helping WSGS with this event.** On Friday there is an afternoon workshop starting with registration at noon and the workshop at 1:30 p.m. hosted by George Findlen on "Abstracting Land Deeds: Pulling Out Essentials." Please note there is an error on the starting time on the registration form. Registration for this day is separate from the Saturday session and is limited to 40 people. Get your registration in early. On Saturday, registration and vendors open at 8 a.m. The featured speaker is Jay Fonkert on various topics including: Understanding the Language and Methods of Successful Genealogists, Vital Records: What To Do When You Can't Find Them, Who's on First? Merging and Separating Identities in Family History Research, and Genealogical Detours: Solving Problems with Indirect Evidence. Find the brochure and registration forms at www.wsgs.org.

11 Nov 2014 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting, 6:30 p.m., McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.** The program for November will be Jonah Jung presenting on "Family Search.org: Making the Most of Their On-Line Resources."

09 Dec 2014 **Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society meeting.** This is our annual Christmas gathering. We will meet at the Mead Foundation Paper Museum. We will have a short tour of the museum, with cookies and coffee to follow. More details will be shared as they become available.

IN MEMORIAM—JEAN FRITZ

The Society lost another one of its faithful members. Jean Fritz died February 22. Jean was born in Marshfield, WI, and grew up on a farm south of that city. After achieving her Bachelor's degree in Education, she went on to teach for six years in one-room schools. Later she taught in the Port Edwards school district. Her teaching career lasted 42 years; she retired in 1990.

Even though she did not teach formally in a classroom setting any more, she went on to teach life story writing in the late 1990s at the Lowell Center in Wisconsin Rapids. She did presentations for our Society, encouraging us to write down our life stories also. She portrayed the first teacher in the Point Basse schoolhouse for their festivals.

Jean joined us in 1991, served as Vice Chairman for two years and moved into the Chairman slot for the next three years. She also served on the Bylaws Committee and as a Trustee. She lent her expertise to various Society projects including governmental and school records.

She was preceded in death by her husband Arnie in 2011 and is survived by her son Steven. She will be missed by her family and her many genealogy friends.



EDITOR'S APOLOGY

As you may or may not have noticed, there was no June newsletter. I had started it before we left on a trip to Alaska and figured on finishing it while on vacation. That did not happen. The availability of a good internet connection is a dream at most of the Alaskan campgrounds that we stayed in. Most internet connections are made through satellite which is adequate at best. We even hit the library in Fairbanks searching for that elusive good connection.

So after 69 days, 11,196 miles, and 7,000 photographs later, I am back in front of my home computer, trying to get this newsletter finished and out to you. My apologies for the lateness of it all.

The Editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM

DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:
HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1565
WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-1565

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

New members only: You may have **one** free surname search if you reside outside of Wood County, WI (a \$10 value).

Surname you would like researched: _____

The membership list is published once per year in the December newsletter. We ask that you give permission for us to publish your address, telephone number, and e-mail address by responding to the following questions. **(Please clearly circle your answer; if no response is given, we will automatically publish):** I wish to have the following published in the December newsletter: my address? **Yes No**; my phone number? **Yes No**; my e-mail address? **Yes No**

Members may submit one free query per year, which will be published in the Society's newsletter in order to contact others researching the same ancestors. It should be 50 words or less, not counting the name and address of the submitter. Members and non-members may submit additional queries at the rate of 10 cents per word.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a membership card mailed to you. Thanks.

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Chairman | Di Neinfeldt |
| Vice Chairman | Tina Krummel |
| Secretary | Doreen Dimick |
| Treasurer | Bev Polansky |
| Trustees | Eugene Meier |
| 3 years | Ben Chitek |
| 2 years | Flores Gumz |
| 1 year | |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Book Purchases | Flores Gumz |
| By-Laws | Pat Fischer |
| Genealogy Class | (Vacant) |
| Historian | Bev Peaslee |
| Hospitality | Joyce Keehn |
| Indexing | Mary Peters & Bev Peaslee |
| Library Files | Arlene Keehn |
| New Members | Doris King |
| Newsletter | Bev Peaslee |
| Pedigree Charts | Myra Sweet |
| Research | Mary Moss |
| Sunshine | Sue Miller |
| Website | Di Neinfeldt |

Wood County Roots Editor:

PURPOSE OF SOCIETY: To assist members and others in genealogical research and to preserve local records.

DUES: \$15 per household—one newsletter per address. Please list names of all persons joining. Due at or before 31 July. Membership year runs from 01 August through 31 July.

MEETINGS: Held monthly—September through June—on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the McMillan Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI (right across the street from the Hotel Mead & Convention Center).

Wood County Roots Editor:Bev Peaslee Phone: 715-652-2513 E-mail: elvistcb@tds.net